

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8769

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ROME 17668

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, XF

SUBJ: POPE COMMENTS ON JERUSALEM

DURING HIS DEC. 23 ADDRESS TO COLLEGE OF CARDINALS GATHERED
TO PRESENT HIM THEIR HOLIDAY GREETINGS, POPE PAUL MADE
FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO JERUSALEM:

QUOTE JERUSALEM, SYMBOL OF PEACE.

HOW CAN WE NOT REMEMBER, ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING OF HOLY YEAR
IN THIS CITY, "MOTHER AND HEAD" OF THE CATHOLIC WORLD, ANOTHER
CITY, JERUSALEM: THE "HOLY CITY" OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD;
CENTER OF THE LOVE AND CENTURIES OLD NOSTALGIA OF THAT PEOPLE
WHICH GOD HAD MYSTERIOUSLY CHOSEN, SIGNIFYING IN IT "HIS"
PEOPLE IN WHICH WE RECOGNIZE OURSELVES; AND LIKEWISE SO
DEAT TO THE RELIGIOUS FAMILY OF ISLAM? HOW MUCH WE WOULD
DESIRE THAT, RATHER THAN AN OBJECT OF PERSISTENT STRIFE, IT
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SHOULD BECOME A CROSSROADS OF BROTHERLY MEETING FOR ALL

THE WORSHIPPERS OF THE ONLY GOD: SYMBOL OF PEACE FOR THE
PEOPLES OF THE HOLY LAND AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE NEAR
EAST?

TO THIS GENEROUS AND TORMENTED REGION, AND TO ALL THE OTHER
PARTS OF THE WORLD, WHERE -- AS IN IRELAND, ALWAYS VERY DEAR
TO US AND ALWAYS PRESENT IN OUR SPIRIT -- CONFLICTS AND
VIOLENCE CONTINUE TO DISTURB CIVIL COEXISTENCE, OUR HOPE OF
PEACE: A JUST PEACE, A PEACE RESULTING FROM SPIRITS RECONCILED
AND PLACATED BY GENEROUS, RECIPROCAL CONCORD, A PEACE OF ACTIVE
LIBERATION AND SOCIAL COLLABORATION; A PEACE WHICH MAKES A
STILL MORE PROFOUNDLY FELT PLEDGE IN THIS YEAR OF SPIRITUAL
RENOVATION AND RECONCILIATION WHICH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
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